



The Orion

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Baseball series win

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Featured Artist

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Chico State's Independent News Source Since 1975

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Coronavirus threat urges abroad students to return home

Kimberly Morales

Staff Writer

Chico State and study abroad consortiums have began to pull out students from their study abroad programs amid the exceeding amount of coronavirus cases across the globe.

Students who had decided to continue their path towards their degree in countries such as China, Italy and South Korea were notified by the University and through their respective consortiums that their study abroad programs have been cancelled.

The fallback for students who have received notice of their programs' cancellation have been presented as either the continuation of a student's courses in a different country that provides a similar program, relocating to a different country where students may live with family or returning back to California to live with their families while continuing their classes online, if offered by the teachers from the original programs, said Sara Trecheter, the Intermediate Associate Vice President of the Department of International Education and Global Engagement.

"We're trying to arrange time with those students and faculty, chairs and deans to help find those students an avenue to keep making progress to their degrees," Trecheter added.

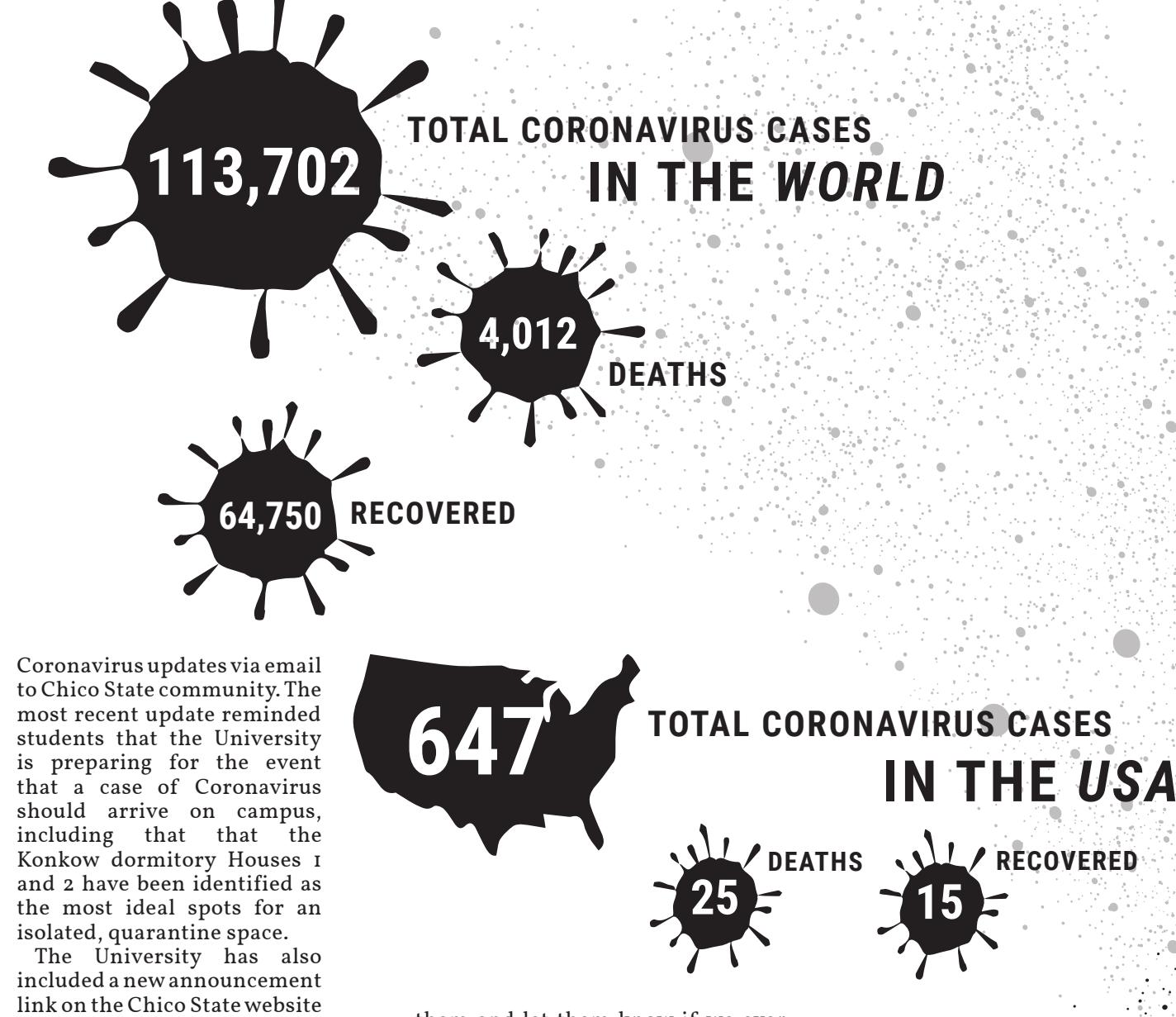
Aside from the University and consortium recommendations of suspending programs, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced to Universities that schools should consider asking students to return home.

"We're getting direct communication from them (the CDC) but it's our responsibility to always follow what's happening around the world so we don't rely on what the government tells us ... We are proactive in monitoring our students' safety and that's actually part of university policy," Trecheter continues.

According to Thretcher, at the time of their departure, none of the students who had been studying in China, South Korea or Italy had resided in a province that found many cases of the coronavirus.

"We have a couple of students from China who returned. We have one student who is actually returning to Chico from South Korea and we have 23 students who are not necessarily returning to Chico, but whose programs were suspended in Italy," Trecheter said.

On Friday, the Butte County Public Health Department issued a press release from the Butte County Assistant Chief



Coronavirus updates via email to Chico State community. The most recent update reminded students that the University is preparing for the event that a case of Coronavirus should arrive on campus, including that the Konkow dormitory Houses 1 and 2 have been identified as the most ideal spots for an isolated, quarantine space.

The University has also included a new announcement link on the Chico State website that will lead students to a regularly updated Coronavirus FAQ page.

"We're keeping an eye on what the California Governor is telling us and the California State University Chancellor's office is putting out guidelines and we're engaged in our own planning and communicating to the campus to the best of our ability," Chico State University President Gayle Hutchinson said. "The most important thing for everyone to understand is that we're preparing. We have a plan and we will keep you updated as much as we possibly can," President Hutchinson ended.

Daniela Galvan, a 3rd-year student at Chico State had been saving for her Study Abroad trip to Italy for two years before beginning the process to apply for her program during the 2019 Fall Semester before finally leaving for Italy on Jan. 8.

"I actually should be in Switzerland right now," Galvan said. "I paid for everything and you can't get all of your money back because of all the cheap, non-refundable flights. At most they're

them and let them know if we ever felt unwell, but the University was really good at helping us stay calm and keeping us updated on the news," Galvan said.

Back in Chico, Galvan is serving a 14-day quarantine inside her home that she lives with her parents where she will not be permitted to go to public areas.

Galvan mentioned that a friend of hers had been tested for the Coronavirus but the results came out negative.

"Since I don't know what classes will be offered, I don't know how this will affect my path to graduation and it's really

really

nerve-racking to go from living my best life to not being sure if I'll have to pay back the student aid I got because I won't be taking the minimum amount of units," Galvan ended.

Kimberly Morales can be reached at orionmanagingeditor@gmail.com or @kimberlymnews on Twitter

ILLUSTRATION BY | CHASE FALK
Statistics supplied by CDC.gov, and worldometers.info as of 3/9/20

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Administration Officer, Brian Ring which announced that Butte County would declare the Coronavirus as a public health emergency.

Since Feb. 28, the University has continued to send out regular

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Weather

Precipitation: 0%

Humidity: 55 %

Wind: 6 mph

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Weather

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'Servant of Two Masters' upholds theatrical tradition



Danielle Kessler
Staff Writer

Chico State's School of the Arts put on a production of "Servant of Two Masters" from March 4 to March 8 in Larry Wismer Theatre. The classic commedia dell'arte play showcased a traditional art form that has been preserved for centuries, with the help of talent from student actors.

On Thursday's performance, the show began with the establishment of the main characters and their relationships with each other. Truffaldino (Leif Bramer) is introduced as a clumsy, always hungry servant, who gets into trouble when he attempts to juggle having two masters at once, hence the title.

Leif Bramer, who portrayed the main character, Truffaldino, described his character and some of the highlights and challenges of playing him.

"The character that I play, Truffaldino, is the typical servant archetype," Bramer said. "He's very happy-go-lucky, he gets beat around a lot but he's always persistent and he gets away with a lot without even trying."

"My hardest scene I'd probably say is the dinner scene," Bramer said, which is one of the most significant and noteworthy scenes in the play where Truffaldino must prepare dinner for both of his masters all the while they are both unaware of his double-servitude.

Bramer also explained a little more on the traditional style of commedia dell'arte, which "Servant of Two Masters" is deeply rooted in.

"It's an eighteenth century Italian comedy style of acting that's very physical and there are specific archetypes of characters," Bramer said.

As the tradition of commedia dell'arte was upheld, the other characters displayed some of the other popular archetypes. Some notable characters were Pantalone Dei Biognosi, (Dominic La Frantz) who is an older, rich merchant, Beatrice Rasponi (Jamie Wu) a woman disguised as her deceased brother, and Silvio (Zach Troutaman) who is a melodramatic romantic archetype.

"Servant of Two Masters" carried out a staple of commedia dell'arte and paid homage to a classic Italian style of theater, while still being relevant and entertaining for a younger generation of theater goers.

Chico State's School of the Arts is putting on a performance of the Tony award-winning musical written by Lin Manuel-Miranda, "In the Heights" from April 30 to May 2. For more information about tickets or upcoming events, visit the School of the Arts website.

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Chico state student's art expresses identity and culture



Elijah Ewing
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Lo sits down to continue working on her painting. She knows it's late, but it's at this time that she feels like she can really start to be creative. The Wi-Fi is shut off, and her classical music is now playing. Lo is now in the creative mindset she needs to create something not only beautiful, but thought provoking about her own self.

Lo is a sophomore in the art program at Chico State. She has had a passion for art since she was a child and it has since blossomed into a way she can truly express herself and has helped shape her identity as a whole. Lo recalls being a young child and, even then, had a reputation for drawing in elementary school. But it wasn't until her junior year of high school where she realized her ability for art could be more than a hobby.

"I was thinking I would go with teaching, because it was the most realistic approach because it gives me time to work on my own pieces and also gives me time to teach students what I have learned through my process as well," Lo said.

Although she wants to be a teacher, she isn't sure at what level she wants to teach. At a university level, she can refine a student's skills, but in high school she can be someone's inspiration and ignite their passion to be an artist. It's a tough decision Lo hasn't made yet.

For now, she's focusing on her own art. While her work does not maintain the same artistic style, there is a theme that surrounds all of her pieces. Lo prefers to have human subjects, so the viewer can connect with her work, and her work always incorporates her own culture.

"It's part of who I am and I want to show people," Lo said. "There's a lot of things in the Hmong culture that influence a lot of my works."

Lo hasn't always had a strong connection with her culture. Being a first-generation American, Lo had to learn what it means to be a Hmong in America.

"I was just a kid really understanding what it meant to be Hmong and American at the same time," Lo said. "I pushed away my identity as a Hmong person because a majority of the kids I went to school with were Caucasian and Hispanic."

In her youth, Lo felt like there wasn't a platform or opportunity to talk to other students about her culture.

Now, Lo uses her art as a way to educate those who don't know about Hmongs.

"I'm definitely trying to create a voice for the Hmong community," Lo said.

One of her current paintings features landscapes based on Laos and Vietnam. She described how her mom escaped oppression of the communist government during the Vietnam War by crossing the mile-long, freezing-cold Mekong River. It's this exact history that inspires Lo's pieces.

When viewing one of Lo's pieces, nothing strikes you more than the sharp and attracting eyes of her paintings subjects.

"I want the viewer to feel intimate with the piece, I just want to connect on a level where I don't have to speak on the painting, but the painting can speak for themselves," Lo said.

Lo has two more years at Chico State to grow, but as she continues to paint, she will only keep inspiring others. To see some of Lo's artwork, you can find her art Instagram at @elosarts16. Although pictures don't give her work justice and show how vibrant her paintings are, it provides a glimpse into her culture and who she is.

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PHOTOS BY | WESLEY HARRIS

Elizabeth Lo showcases the different pieces of art throughout her exhibit.

Chico Events Wednesday, March 11, to Wednesday, March 18

March 11

Open Studios

Ayres Hall and the Arts and Humanities Building, 10 a.m.

Both buildings are open to view current Bachelor of Fine Arts students' current projects. The students will also be there to discuss their work with the public. More information, including where specific students are located can be found on the Chico Art Facebook page.

Price: Free



March 12

The Earth Day Film Festival

Pageant Theatre, Week long event.

Experience a week of environmental films showcasing a broad range of environmental issues our world currently faces. Each event will be a curated block of films ranging from 70 to 120 minutes total. Tickets can be bought for the entire event or for a specific event. The website earthdayfilmfest.org has a schedule of events for the entire week.

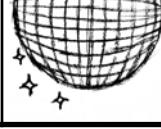
Price: \$85 for the entire festival, \$10 for specific events.

Silent Disco

El Rey Theatre, 8 p.m.

Put on some wireless headphones and dance the night away with your selection of 3 different types of music. Choose between EDM, hip-hop, or an open format channel. This event is presented by Black Noise.

Price: \$7 Online, \$15 at the door



March 14

I heart the '90 dance party

Maltese, 10 p.m.

Relive the '90s with only the best hip-hop, R&B and pop played all night by DJ Barndo and DJ A-Lo-fi. Don't be scared to bust down and do the cabbage patch like it's 1999. There will also be special '90s themed drinks all night as well. This event is 21+.

Price: \$3 at the door



ILLUSTRATIONS BY | MELISSA JOSEPH

Three athletes, different backgrounds

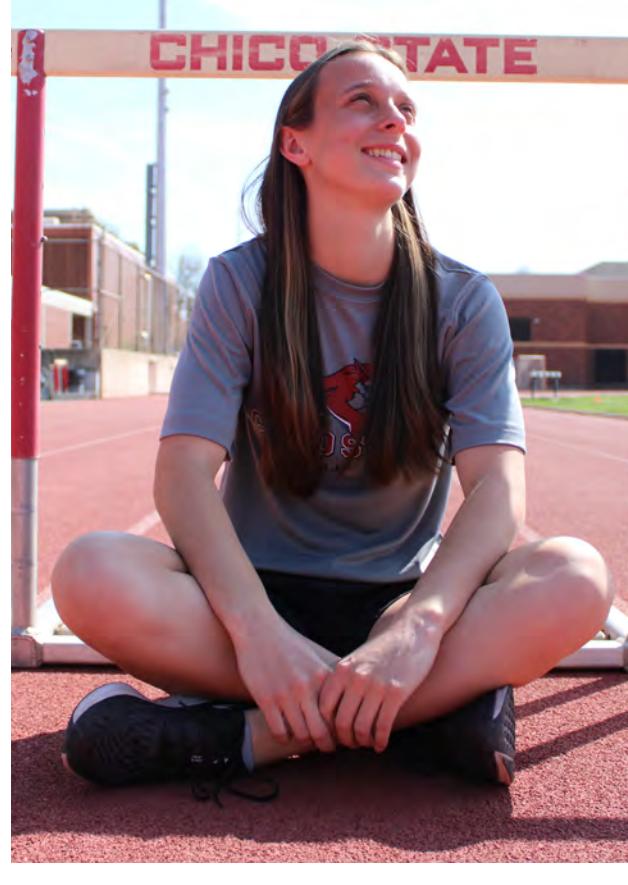


PHOTO BY | ALEX MARTIN

(Left) Senior Talia Swangler is a distance runner that does the 5k and 10k. (Center) Freshman Elizabeth Wiley does the 100M and 400M hurdles. She is a kinesiology major. (Right) Paul Kostyshak, pole vaults for the Chico State track and field team.

Alex Martin
Staff Writer

Three standout athletes on the track and field team have shown exceptional talent this season. They come from different backgrounds and participate in different events, yet share the same love for Chico State athletics.

Paul Kostyshak is a sophomore pole vaulter and exercise physiology major. He is from Sacramento County, which is located about 105 miles south of Chico. Kostyshak came to Chico State by chance, yet was soon destined to stay.

"I was originally going to go and play football in college," Kostyshak said. "A week before I had to commit to a school, I was planning on going to Humboldt State. I ended up coming to orientation at Chico State, and by the grace of God there was a track meet going on that same day."

Kostyshak has been pole vaulting since his sophomore year in high school and did not anticipate that his

pole vaulting days would continue on into college. However, talking to the Chico State head coach changed his presumptions.

"I saw this crazy lady stand up in the stands and she starts walking down toward me," Kostyshak said. "An athlete started walking to her and I was thinking, 'No freaking way. This is the coach. This is the opportunity to talk to her.'

Kostyshak still has two years left of his career here at Chico State, and he intends to make the most of it. Despite his love of the game of football, he is beyond glad he chose to pursue pole vaulting at none other than Chico State.

"I'm forever grateful I chose Chico. I will not get this experience anywhere else," Kostyshak said.

Fellow athlete on the team is freshman hurdler and kinesiology major Elizabeth Wiley. She is originally from Chico, and her father and siblings went to Chico State, so she is no stranger to this community and

environment. One could say that Chico State runs in her blood.

"My high school coach emailed Coach [Robert] Nooney telling him that I wanted to be on the track team," Wiley said. "I came and met with Coach Nooney. We talked for a bit, and he said they had a spot for me on the team."

Wiley started hurdling when she was a freshman in high school. She enjoys the sport tremendously and thrives off the tough competition of running short distances.

"I think about running into the hurdle and attacking it," Wiley said. "It's really fun doing that because I still get to run, but it's not stopping me. I get to run and attack it."

In her senior season is Talia Swangler, a long distance runner and communication sciences and disorders major. Swangler is from the small town of Paradise. She loves to run and enjoys the challenges that come along with the sport.

"In a day, the longest I have ran was 15 miles. In a week, close to 70," Swangler

said.

As a consistent and active member of the track and field team, Swangler typically runs around five to 10 kilometers, which is equivalent to about 3.1 to 6.2 miles.

"It's definitely a thrill just competing," Swangler said. "It's really challenging just being out in front of people the whole time. You can see who you're with, the times you're hitting and whether you're on pace or not."

Being a senior and closing in on graduation, Swangler intends to continue running after she leaves Chico State. She will take all that running has taught her into the real world.

"The mental toughness that I've gained from it is really valuable. I always hope to be a lifelong runner with the ability to grin and bear anything," Swangler said.

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PHOTO BY | WESLEY HARRIS

Maddy Wong pulls a jumper from 3.

Wildcats say farewell to their 2019-2020 season

Alex Martin
Staff Writer

It was an intense Tuesday night in Acker Gym as the Wildcats took on the California State University, East Bay Pioneers in the first round of the CCAA playoffs. Unfortunately, Chico State exited the playoffs early as they lost by a final score of 53-78.

Sophomore forward Mikaila Wegenke was the team's leading scorer and the only one to contribute double digits to the Wildcats' score. She had 10 points on the night and added on four steals. Despite an early playoff exit, Wegenke reflects on a well-played season.

"I'm proud of being on this team and playing with these girls no matter what the score is and no matter how many points I score," Wegenke said. "It's all about doing it for the people that go through hell everyday with each other."

Senior Maddy Wong put up seven points in her last Wildcat basketball game. Wong put up 338 points during her final regular season of play at Chico State and will be missed by her teammates and coaching staff. At the conclusion of the game, Wong took her last steps off the court to the sound of a roaring crowd giving her a standing ovation.

"She (Wong) has been a tremendous leader for us. She's a great student and a role model. She's a joy to coach," head

coach Brian Fogel said. "She's leaving here as the most prolific 3-point shooter in the history of the school as well as the CCAA conference. That doesn't just happen. She put in extra time. She got to practice early and stayed late. We're going to miss her dearly."

Despite the disappointing outcome, the Wildcats congratulated the Pioneers on their advancement into the next round of playoffs, taking place in Southern California.

"They were hitting their shots, especially in the first half," Wong said. "They were making the right passes at the right time. When everything is clicking for them and not for us, it's really hard to find that rhythm that we need to come back."

As Wong leaves behind her legacy, she will always remember her days at Chico State, both on the basketball court and in the classroom. She is grateful for her time spent in Chico and her amazing teammates.

"We all had that (drive) and that's really hard to find in people," Wong said. "Each and every team has had a different dynamic. The relationships that we built with the girls on each team that I've been a part of this whole entire career have been really special."

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PHOTO BY | ALEX MARTIN

Wildcats rally to win first home playoff game

Matthew Wreden

Staff Writer

The Wildcats escaped with a crucial win at Acker Gym Tuesday night as they took down the California State University, Stanislaus Warriors by a score of 75-73 in overtime.

It was a back and forth battle throughout game one of the CCAA playoffs with the Wildcats trailing most of the night. Quite possibly the most nail-biting moment of the night came with just 11 seconds remaining when Malik Duffy got fouled and was sent to the free-throw line.

The Wildcats were down two points and desperately needed Duffy to drain his free throws to tie up the game. Duffy confidently walked to the line with a dead silent gym on either side of him. He drained both his free throws, causing an uproar in Acker Gym and tying the game 68-68.

"I missed two other ones early in the game," Duffy said. "I hate missing free throws. I just stepped up there with

confidence, and those shots kept us in the game."

Another star, Justin Briggs, started the night with a jumper and a dunk, which put him at 1,000 overall points in his career. He became the 20th player in Chico State history to reach this milestone. Even with his momentous start, Briggs knew it was not going to be an easy game.

"We knew it was going to be a dog fight," Briggs said. "We knew they were going to have their runs, and we were going to have our runs. It was just a matter of staying the course and staying smart the entire game."

The game began with each team exchanging buckets at each side of the floor. It was 16-16 before the Warriors erupted for a 10-0 run courtesy of 3-pointers from Luis Salgado and Daruis Scott.

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Wildcats take weekend series lead



Braeden Gowdy warms up to pitch the 3rd inning against the Coyotes on March 7.

THE ORION | ARROW VANABRAMS

Arrow VanAbrams
Staff Writer

The Wildcats picked up a series win at Nettleton Stadium on Sunday after taking down the California State University, San Bernardino Coyotes 9-0. This makes for back-to-back series wins for the Wildcats.

Skylar Limonchi and JT Navarro helped carry the Wildcats (15-7, 11-5 CCAA) to their win. Limonchi has not seen the field much this season but did damage throughout this series over the Coyotes (7-15, 4-12 CCAA) by collecting four RBIs throughout the weekend.

"I think we swung the bat well today," Limonchi said. "We were aggressive in counts we needed to be. For me, I have been just trying to be more aggressive at the plate."

Josh Verdon, a junior RHP, was on the mound and pitched four solid shutout innings. He only allowed two hits and two walks.

"We played well today," Verdon said. "We pitched well all series ... always feels good to get back-to-back series wins."

Verdon carries a fastball, curveball, changeup and slider in his pitching arsenal. He found most of his success while using his fastball and curveball.

The Wildcats got off to a quick start and collected three early runs in the second inning. They loaded the bases and brought all three home courtesy of RBIs from Tyler Stofiel, Limonchi and Navarro.

After the second inning, the Wildcats put up four more runs. They were able to load up the bases again and bring them all home. A wild pitch brought one run home and a two-run RBI from Navarro cleared the bases.

"We played good defense and got hits when we needed to," Willie Lajoie said.

"We were aggressive in early counts. We played well together as a team."

Lajoie explained that the team saw a

lot of changeups. Pitchers often like to start by pounding fastballs early in the count and then sprinkle in a variety of changeups and curveballs.

This win puts the Wildcats at an impressive 12-3 home record. The Wildcats will hit the road for their next series against California State University, Los Angeles, beginning on March 13 at 6 p.m.

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Solid pitching and defense earns series win

Matthew Wreden
Staff Writer

The Wildcats picked up a series win at Nettleton Stadium Sunday after taking down the California State San Bernardino Coyotes 9-0. This makes back-to-back series wins for the Wildcats.

Skylar Limonchi and JT Navarro did most of the work for the Wildcats (15-7, 11-5 CCAA) today. Limonchi has not seen the field a lot this season, but did damage in the series win over the Coyotes (7-15, 4-12 CCAA). He collected 4 RBIs during the weekend.

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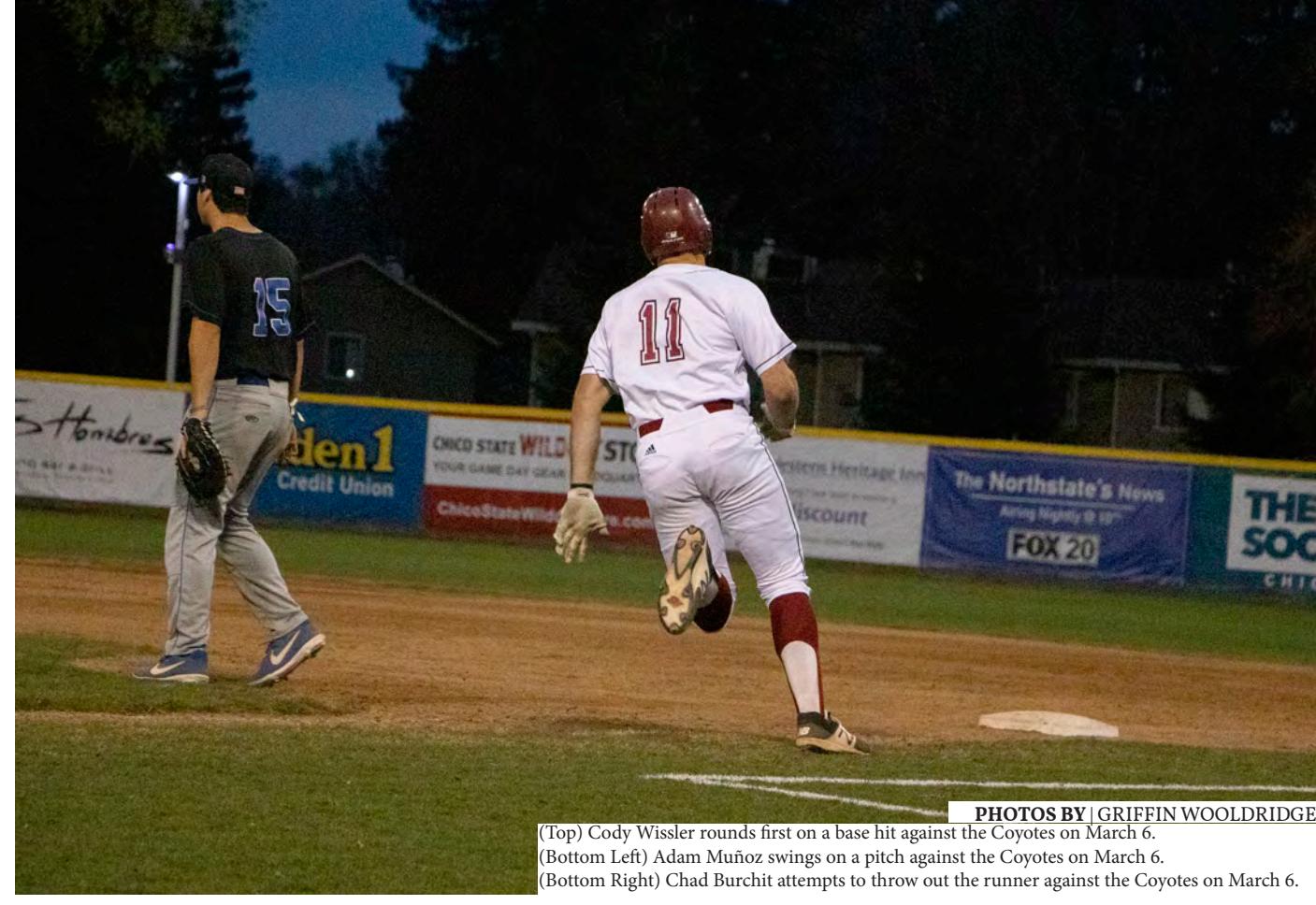
The Wildcats got out to a quick start and collected 3 early runs in the second inning. They loaded the bases and brought all three home courtesy of RBIs from Limonchi, Tyler Stofiel and Navarro.

The game quickly progressed after the second inning until the eighth inning when the Wildcats put up four more runs. They were able to load the bases again and bring them all home. A wild pitch brought one home and a 2-run RBI from Navarro cleared the bases.

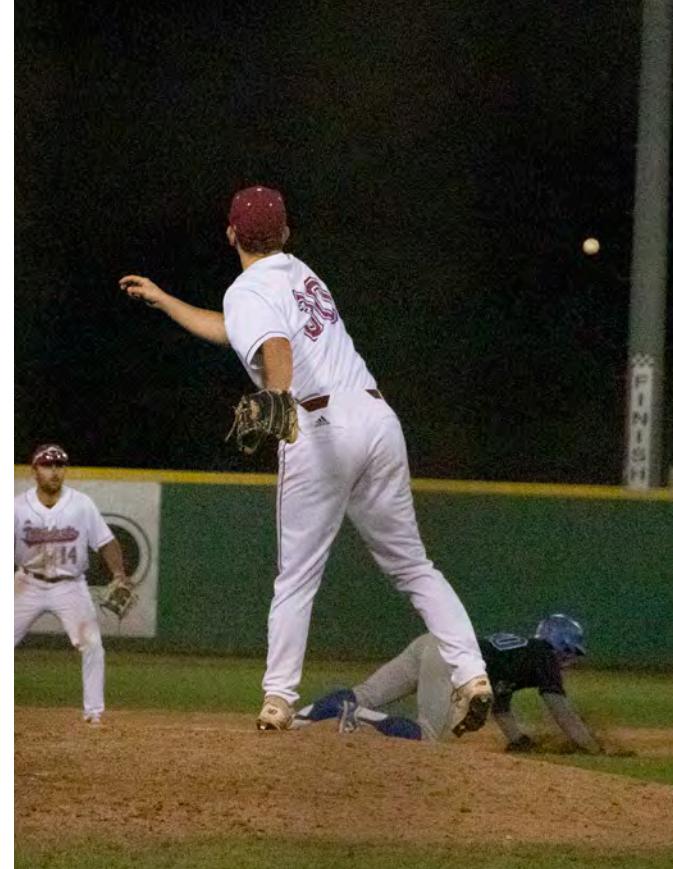
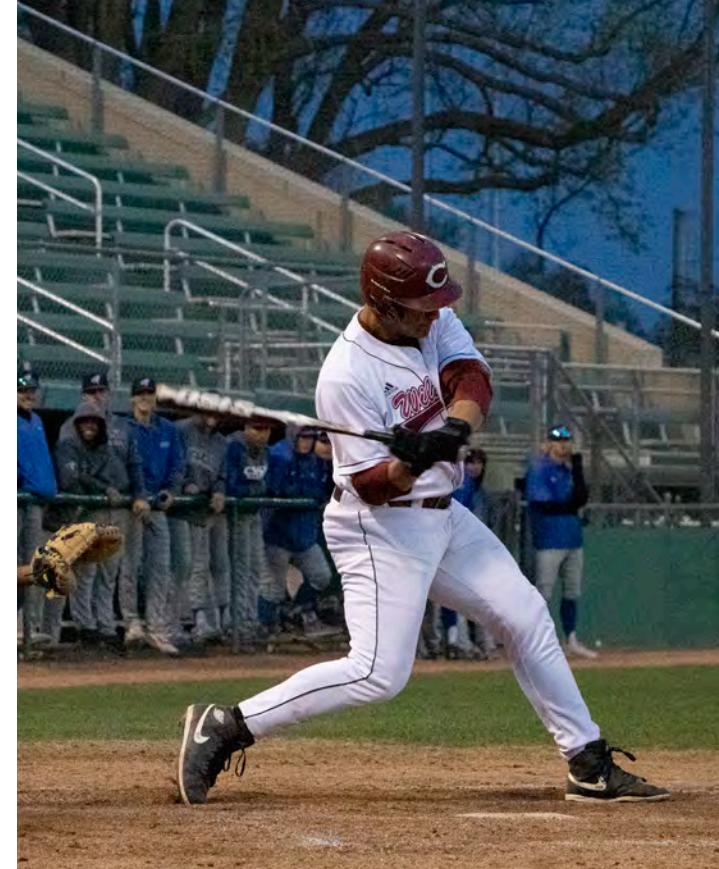
"We played good defense and got hits when we needed to," Willie Lajoie said. "We were aggressive in early counts. We played well together as a team."

Lajoie explained that the team saw a lot of changeups today. Teams like to start by pounding fastballs early in the count and then like to sprinkle in their changeups and curveballs.

This win has put the Wildcats at an impressive 12-3 record at home. The Wildcats will be on the road for the next series when they take on California State Los Angeles. That series will begin March 13 at 6 p.m.



(Top) Cody Wissler rounds first on a base hit against the Coyotes on March 6.
(Bottom Left) Adam Muñoz swings on a pitch against the Coyotes on March 6.
(Bottom Right) Chad Burchit attempts to throw out the runner against the Coyotes on March 6.



Teachers profit behind closed doors

Erin Holve
Staff Writer

The recent investigation into Professor Curtis Deberg's alleged mishandling of funding made me consider what other conflicts of interest professors may have concerning students. One such possible conflict is the assigning and purchasing of texts written by the professor.

During my first semester at Chico State I had an online course where the professor required an online textbook they had written. When the cost totaled around \$130 I was shocked. For a physical copy of the book I would expect this type of price gouging.

The textbook was required in order to pass the class. The students had to take exams that were implemented within the textbook. It was a class that was only offered by this professor and there were no other options for supplemental reading in hopes of passing the class.

In the end I bit

In order to contemplate the ethics of a professor assigning their own textbooks to students it is important to investigate the topic of textbook publishing and a professors rights to publish their work.

"None of these practices is by itself cause for concern," the American Association of University Professors said. "The right of individual professors to select their own instructional materials, a right protected under principles of academic freedom, should be limited only by such considerations as quality, cost, availability, and the need for coordination with other instructors or courses."

An important factor for professors selecting textbooks is to choose one that meets the course standards of instruction. Often, these professors will make their works available for a low cost or free in an electronic format. These can range from assigned commercially published textbooks to course packets that consist of the professors' own materials they have obtained overtime.

help to regulate the assignment of a professor's published textbook. Many universities, such as the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, establish that materials written by faculty and intended for student purchase must be first approved by the departmental, collegiate, and or university-level committees.

Rebecca Schuman, a writer for Slate examines a tenured

much of an incentive to cross ethics boundaries. If a professor assigns a textbook they wrote which can be purchased and found on many platforms there should be no need for concern of a conflict of interest.

If a professor is limiting access to such material and does not have a proper third party from which their works can be bought, you should be concerned about what ethical boundaries are being crossed.

In the end, it comes down to individual situations.

If you've noticed a professor is requiring specific and special funding for text or products for class then you

professor's standard salary breakdown and how their textbooks become assigned course reading. 40% is for teaching, 20% for service to the university, and another 40% for research such as writing the arcane textbooks.

Tenured professors often conduct research that they will appeal to be published by a textbook publishing company. They will receive a lump sum upon approval. The website Learn.org states that authors of the textbooks often receive around \$62,000 when a book is published.

"They may do it for the financial rewards or to support the goals of the institution for which they teach," Learn.org said. "Their work typically involves extensive research into a particular subject ... their work must be credible and properly cited."

University of Pennsylvania professor Joseph Turow estimated that he makes about \$5 per book sold and that other professors report similarly low royalties.

"You receive an advance and 10% royalties on net profit from each book," Inc. writer Danny Iny said.

Overall, a professor doesn't have

need to speak to the Ombuds Office, a confidential, neutral and informal resource where you can discuss a complaint, conflict or problem. As well, students can visit Chico State's Whistleblower Complaints page where The Bureau of State Audits can investigate theft, fraud or conflicts of interest by state employees.

Before going to these sources remember that professors have the right to research, work on and publish textbooks without it being considered a conflict of interest. For many professors, this is a natural path for someone who is well-versed and dedicated to a particular subject or department topic.

ILLUSTRATION BY | MELISSA JOSEPH

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Free soda with side of sexual harassment



ILLUSTRATION BY | MELISSA JOSEPH

Victoria Hernández
Staff Writer

I want to answer some questions before we start.

No, you are not alone. You do not need to wait for "something to happen" for your feelings to be valid. Even if the harassment in your place of employment has not reached its highest peak, does not mean the discomfort you feel is an overreaction.

Sly comments and unseemly stories from coworkers, among other actions, begin to build up to eventually create a sense of discomfort. You shouldn't feel this uneasy in a place intended to provide employment, not a sexual partner.

I am faced with the problem of being told that my manager, who is around 40-years-old, hired me in hopes of having a sexual relationship with me. Mind you, age is just a number but there is no question that no person in a leadership position should be setting their sights on a 19-year-old applicant.

Although my supervisor has not groped me, does not mean my feeling of discomfort is irrational or a figment of my imagination. As a woman, I am historically and rarely taken seriously. To know that I was only hired to fulfill a

sexual fantasy is disheartening.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reported an 11.2% increase in reports alleging sexual harassment, from 2016 to 2019.

Every person, regardless of age or gender, deserves a safe place of employment. Free sodas and the opportunity to become a team leader, with a dollar wage increase, should not be incentives in creating a sexual playhouse.

Not as a woman, but as a person, I should feel secure in my workplace. In actuality, everyone should feel secure in all environments. Unfortunately, this is not the case for most individuals.

"Working with someone that (makes suggestive comments) to me, makes me feel insecure and anxious," student Abraham Origel said. "I feel like less of a person."

Being frightened to shut someone down due to fearing a loss of your financial stability is remarkably unsettling. Nobody should fear losing their job due to turning down someone's sexual advances.

I am not waiting until I become a statistic, and neither should you. Find your voice.

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ILLUSTRATION BY | MELISSA JOSEPH

Chico State: The Harvard of the West

Abigail Kovac
Staff Writer

Coming to Chico was the biggest culture shock to me. I was born and raised in Southern California my whole life and back home, diversity was all I knew.

Coming here, I was so surprised to see very little diversity and it almost made me laugh during class discussions where others would say Chico was "very diverse".

Yes, it may be a little diverse but compared to other places. Coming to Chico was the first time I felt out of place.

I felt a bright spotlight on me, with the warmth of it making my entire body uncomfortable as I sat in my seat. As I melted into a puddle of insecurity from the eyes observing me, I seemed to sink deeper and deeper into a sense that I did not belong here.

Chico State claims to be diverse which may be well-intentioned for the sake of a good heart or a hungry wallet. Whichever the case may be, I believe we need higher statistics about minority student enrollment before campus can truly claim to be diverse.

As of now, the demographics on diversity could possibly rank us as another "Harvard of the West Coast."

The statistics between Chico State and Harvard are pretty close with undergrad demographics for Chico State showing 43% white, 34% Hispanic/Latino, 2.7% black/African American, 5.5% Asian, 5.3% two or more races and 6.6% unknown. The demographics show that the faculty and staff are around 70% white.

Harvard's demographics show 45.8% white, 12.2% Hispanic/Latino, 14.3% black/African American and 25.5% Asian. These statistics were taken from each institution's official website.

The school claims to be diverse, however even those a part of diverse clubs feel hidden. Taylor Austin, a member of the Black Student Union club on campus, does not feel the support from Chico State either.

"All of the diverse spaces are pushed into one hallway," Austin said. "Many of the white students don't even know that we exist."

If Chico State truly cares about diversity, these clubs that are created to unify different ethnicities should be recognized more on campus. More events should be put on to acknowledge different cultures and the minds of the majority should become more understanding toward the matter.

We live in a world where differences are ignored rather than admired. We need to take the time to educate ourselves and listen to stories and the cries from the unjust society we live in.

There is a reason why the minority still fights to break down a barrier of stereotypes. We are all human, no matter the color of our skin or our different accents. We still bleed the same.

White privilege is a wall of protection that most don't acknowledge. Although life is easier for someone who is white, that does not give them a pass to ignore real ethnic issues, which consists of an unjust criminal system and violent crimes against people of color.

Chico State and the majority need to stand up for diversity and support one another as much as the majority.

Before claiming to be diverse, Chico State should open their arms to increasing diversity not for the sake of their image but for the sake of changing the world.

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CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT STUDENT JOURNALISM

THE ORION STARTRONIC PAGE
Ever wonder where the Orion got its name? Well here's the answer.

a giant-sized hunter who was eventually slain by Artemis. So great was Orion's reputation and skill that the gods placed him in the sky as a constellation. On a clear night, you might find him watching over the earth by looking skyward. Like Orion, the students of the CICS Advanced Reporting course, who write and produce this paper, are hunters – seekers of truth via the high standards and ideals striven for among professional journalists."

"Long before taking the role of Editor-in-Chief, I started out in this newsroom as a student reporter with barely an inkling of knowledge of how to be a journalist."

a student reporter with barely an inkling of knowledge or how to be a journalist. There were times where learning this profession was a whirlwind, and I wanted to change my major, thinking maybe it wasn't worth the struggle. But I'm still here doing what I love because the leaders before me were there to nurture and inspire me to do the hard and important work that is journalism. Now, I am challenged with the task of upholding The Orion's legacy but also hoping to be that leader that I once saw in students before me. It's a journey with unexpected twists and turns around every corner, but I know for sure I could never help The Orion progress without my past and present teams."



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